

# *The Village of Northfield*

## **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 22, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor, Jesse J. Nehez at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Nehez asked for a moment of silence for the Greenlee family due to her daughter having cancer and her nephew passing.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

ROLL CALL was read by Lisa M. Rodriguez, Clerk of Council.. The following were present: Mayor Nehez, Linda Bowen, Nicholas Magistrelli, Gary Vojtush, Alan E. Hipps and Ethan Miladinovic. Beatrice Greenlee was absent. In addition, Law Director, Brad Bryan, and Police Chief, Mark Wentz, were present. Village Engineer Richard Wasosky, Fire Chief Jason Buss, Service and Building & Zoning Superintendent Jason Walters were not in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Nehez asked for approval of the minutes for the Council meeting of October 8, 2014. A motion for passage was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Alan Hipps, passed with 5 aye votes.

Brad Bryan read the Resolution 2014-61, an Emergency Resolution confirming the Mayor/Director of Public Safety's appointment of Andrew Dziak as a part-time police officer. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Gary Vojtush and seconded by Linda Bowen, carried with 5 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Gary Vojtush and passed with 5 ayes. Chief Wentz gave a speech about the police department and presented the oath of office to Andrew Dziak as a part-time police officer.

### **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND REMONSTRANCES:**

Resident, Mr. Harold Wiegand stated to Mayor Nehez and Council that he is proud of the ordinances that were passed to help clean up the Village. Harold asked if there is a violation, does the Police or Service Department enforce it. Brad stated that if it is building or zoning violation it would be Jason Walters, if it is a parking issue or noise complaint then the Police Department would handle those issues. Harold said that residents have always been told if they see a violation to call it in, but if the police are patrolling the streets and the Service Department are working on the streets shouldn't they see the same issues. Mayor Nehez stated that he just had a meeting with Chief Wentz and Lt. Mackie telling them that when the officers are patrolling they need to keep their eyes open looking for these issues. Brad stated that even if it is something that the Police Dept. doesn't normally handle they will let the Service Dept. know the next day. Mayor Nehez stated that Lisa Rodriguez knows this is the procedures and what happens. Lisa stated that she will have either emails or voice mail messages when she comes into work in the morning. Brad stated that Jason cannot patrol the whole Village all the time. Harold stated that an ordinance is only as good as it is being enforced. Mayor Nehez agreed.

Vicky Salsbury is a resident of Ledge Rd. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their hard work, especially over the last four months. Vicky stated that the information on the website is professional and informative to the residents in the community. She said that the newsletters that the residents receive quarterly with the sewer bills look great, especially the reports that the two councilmen put into the newsletter. It shows that they care. Vicky said that it made her think real hard about her Ward C. She said it has been brought to her attention from a colleague and friend who lives in Parma about some alarming information about her Councilman, Gary Vojtush. She stated that she is standing before Council to formally make a public records request pertaining to the former Fire Chief Gary Vojtush. Vicky requested his complete employee file, including time cards and W2's

from 2006 until when Gary Vojtush was fired as Fire Chief. Vicky said yes he was fired, and I wasn't aware of this. She said she would also like for the public records request to include records that were investigated between Northfield Village and Parma, regarding Gary Vojtush being on the clock at the same time in both towns. Vicky also requested the records from Walton Hills as to why the Village lost the contract between the Village Fire Department and Walton Hills. Vicky asked Gary Vojtush if he was aware of the boundaries of his Ward C and the residents he represents. Gary stated yes. Vicky said, if so, why does Gary worry about other Wards and not Ward C. Gary stated that he is a Councilman for Northfield Village, and if someone were to contact him about a problem that they were having and they don't want to contact their own Councilman, he feels that it is his duty to represent that person because they do live in the Village. Vicky stated to Gary that when he was running for Council, doesn't he think he should have told the residents in Ward C in the letter he distributed that he was fired from Northfield Village as Fire Chief? Gary responded that he could speak privately with Vicky on that point. Gary said that he resigned from his position as Fire Chief, and it was after that, when Council decided to terminate him. Vicky said that she can only speak for herself, and she is sure that she isn't alone. She said that over the last eight Council meetings she has attended, Gary Vojtush was absent for two meetings, and his message is loud and clear. Vicky said that Gary's objective is to get even with the Mayor. Gary said to Vicky that he is sorry she feels that way, and his objective for this position is to do what's right for the citizens of this Village and bring information forward that needs to be brought forward. Vicky said that the most productive meetings out of the last eight meetings were the two that Gary did not attend. Gary said that was her opinion. Vicky said, not to bring up the ATV ordinance, but her Councilman Gary Vojtush never went to her house and never called her regarding that ordinance. It wasn't until two months ago that Gary went to her house after Lt. Mackie stopped at her house. Vicky said to Gary that she knows he has a vendetta for powers to be in the Village. She said she wants to make herself clear that Gary has skeletons in his closet that will forever haunt him, this term on Council is a gift, and she can reassure Gary that there will not be another term for him.

Joann Wiegand stated that she liked the ordinance about the garbage cans. Mayor Nehez stated that this issue was discussed with the department heads at their last meeting and they are working on enforcing it.

Resident, Joe Buzalewski, asked if we have gotten further regarding the stop sign at Milford and Ledge Rds. Brad stated that Village Engineer, Rich Wasosky, was checking into that issue with the County. Joe said that if they put the stop sign at Roosevelt and Houghton, then they need to put the one up at Milford, because years ago they put them up at the same time and then took them down. The Mayor asked Joe if Rich had been in contact with him. Joe said not lately, and it is a safety issue. He said that years ago the Village Service Dept. painted the yellow stripe for the children's cross walk.

Joe asked how many times a resident could have a garage sale. Lisa Rodriguez stated that they are allowed to have three, not including the Village-wide garage sale date. Joe asked about the gentleman on Milford. Lisa said that he has had three this year, and he has registered for each one. Joe stated that this man brings out things to sell like it is a store with as many items as a warehouse. Gary Vojtush said that the police do watch out for residents on Milford when he has the garage sale. He puts up a sign and marks the stop sign out front with caution tape so that nobody will park by it. Gary said that it was an issue before with cars having a hard time getting through that intersection, and the police have been very good with policing him. Mayor Nehez stated that Lisa will send a notice to the police department when residents have a 3<sup>rd</sup> garage sale. Mayor Nehez stated that Lisa Rodriguez will email Chief Wentz and Lt. Mackie to make them aware when residents have their third and final garage sale for the year.

Joe also asked if Council was going forward with the sound system for the Council chambers. Mayor Nehez stated that he has been speaking with Ethan Miladinovic and Gary Vojtush regarding this issue. Joe said that it is hard for people like him to hear, and this will make it easier. Lisa Rodriguez stated that she does put the Council agenda and unapproved legislation on the website prior to the meeting, and then after the Council meeting, the approved legislation and the audio file of the Council meeting are put on the website by the

webmaster as well. Joe stated that his Councilman Ethan Miladinovic emails Harold Wiegand information, and Harold then prints it for Joe.

Lisa Rodriguez stated that she would email Rich and give him Joe's phone number to contact him.

### **REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:**

**A. MAYOR JESSE J. NEHEZ** stated that the new street name signs are being installed, and you are able to view these signs on the website. The Mayor said that the new street signs will be on Route 8 to start, and eventually, the whole Village street name signs will be installed in the spring. The gazebo was put up next to Village Hall, along with the benches donated by the police association. The trash containers were donated by the fire association. Mayor Nehez said that by spring, the green space next to Village hall should be complete so that Concerts in the Park can be held there. Mayor Nehez stated that there were two new Village entry signs replaced on Houghton and Ledge roads for \$1,300 that were created by Classic Designs in Oakwood Village. A third entrance sign will be replaced at a later date.

**B. FINANCE DIRECTOR TIM CLYMER** reported that the Auditors completed their field work two weeks ago, and they have until the end of this month to submit their report to the State. It could then take up to four months for the State to release the report. Tim also stated that the pay resolution was revised to change the total pay amount from \$230,000 to \$437,057.61 because it originally did not include the payment to Warren Fire, which is part of the fire grant obtained by Chief Buss. Large items in the pay resolution include \$49,000 for the Chestnut Rd. work, \$18,000 for quarterly dispatch fees to Macedonia; \$6,000 for the crack seal program; \$11,000 to Mid-Ohio Asphalt for Village parking lot sealcoating & line striping, \$25,000 to US Bank for the fire station loan, and \$216,000 to Warren Fire. So if you remove those items out of the equation, the pay resolution would have been \$112,000. Mayor Nehez stated that the \$216,000 to Warren Fire is a grant. Tim said yes, and the Village has already been reimbursed by the government that amount and won't be out any money by making this payment. Gary asked what amount of the other communities' shares of the payments related to the grant have come in so far. Tim said that all we have so far is the one payment from Macedonia, which was around \$13,000 to \$15,000. Chief Buss divides out the municipalities' shares, and bills them when he feels that it is appropriate, depending on what we receive and when we receive it.

Mayor Nehez thanked Tim for all of his hard work.

**C. ENGINEER RICHARD WASOSKY** was not present.

**D. LAW DIRECTOR BRADRIC BRYAN** asked Council if it would like to move the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in November presently scheduled for the day prior to Thanksgiving on November 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Ethan Miladinovic and seconded by Alan Hipps and passed with 5 ayes. Brad also stated that the News Leader reported that the maximum fine amount contained in the recently passed rental certificate ordinance was \$250,000. He stated that was an error; the correct amount is \$250.00. Brad also asked any Councilpersons who attended a Sunshine Law seminar to give Tim a copy of their certificate to put in their personnel file. Brad said that they will designate someone in December to be the Sunshine Law and public records representative for Mayor Nehez and the rest of Council.

### **E. DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

- 1. Police Department, Chief Mark Wentz** was not present.
- 2. Fire Department, Fire Chief Jason Buss** was not present.
- 3. Service/Building Supervisor, Jason Walters,** was not present.

## **REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

**A. PLANNING COMMISSION, ALAN E. HIPPS**, had no report. He stated that there was not an October meeting, and they will decide if there is a need for a meeting in the month of November.

**B. RECREATION BOARD, MAYOR NEHEZ**, reported that the Board will be meeting on November 6th, 2014 at 7:30pm. They are planning a meet and greet at the fire station with Santa. They will be having a children's coloring contest, and the winner gets a ride in the fire truck. Mayor Nehez donated \$250 to the Recreation Board and Nick Magistrelli donated \$50. The Rec. Board will have a meeting on 11/6/14, but it will involve shopping at Sam's Club for the holiday party. Mayor stated that he feels this will be great for the community. They are also planning an Easter egg hunt and movies in the park next summer. Mayor Nehez said the ladies on the Rec. Board are doing a wonderful job, and he is very proud of them. Mayor Nehez stated that tentatively the date for Santa is December 14<sup>th</sup> and the fire truck will go around as usual. The meet and greet will be from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**FINANCE: LINDA BOWEN.** Brad Bryan read the pay Resolution 2014-60, - An emergency Resolution approving the payment of bills for the month of October, 2014. A motion for passage was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Nick Magistrelli, passed with 5 ayes.

Brad also read the Mayor's Court report for month ending September 2014. A motion for passage was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Nick Magistrelli, passed with 5 aye votes.

Linda Bowen also stated that the next Finance Committee meeting is November 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Nehez said that Linda has done a fantastic job with heading up the block watch and her total involvement with the block watch program.

Linda stated that November 19<sup>th</sup> will be the next block watch meeting.

**ROADS/PUBLIC WORKS: ETHAN MILADINOVIC** had no report. Mayor Nehez said that he has had many residents addressing him and phone calls stating how good Ethan is at getting information out to his ward, and the Mayor said he is proud of him.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE: GARY VOJTUSH** had no report.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: ALAN HIPPS** stated that the gazebo was installed in the green space next to Village Hall, and they will be looking into landscaping & mounding for some of the properties that the Village owns such as the Chestnut sewer plant.

Mayor Nehez said that Alan had a great ward party for the residents and said keep up the good work.

In the Ward A lawn-up competition, the corner of Fell and Vorderman won most improved. The best curb appeal was on Beech, Mark Apana. The best backyard was on Chestnut and has a park feel to it because it backs right up to the preserve. Her son won best junior gardner, along with Mark Apana's son. The Mayor's choice winner was on Chestnut. The backyard has a patio and water fountain. Mayor Nehez said that it was a pleasure to judge with Alan and the team. The residents got to see a different side of their politicians, which is great. Alan stated that he will get the specific addresses of the winners in the next Newsletter. Alan thanked the Hard Rock, Scoreboards, and Spennato's for their donations for the prizes. Each resident who won received a \$220 gift card. Mayor Nehez said that the contest was a great thing to do for Alan's ward.

**WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS: NICHOLAS MAGISTRELLI** had no report.

**FIRE AND SAFETY: BEATRICE GREENLEE** was absent. Linda Bowen said Mrs. Greenlee told her that everything is running smoothly. Linda stated that they will be scheduling a fire and safety committee meeting with Chief Buss at the fire department soon.

Mayor Nehez said that Mrs. Greenlee has been on Council almost 20 years, since 1996. Prior to that time, her husband was on Council and Mayor of the Village. He thanked the Greenlee family for its many years of dedication to the Village.

**LEGISLATION:**

Brad read 2014-54, 3rd reading- An emergency Ordinance amending section 1266.07 of the residential district parking facility and driveway ordinance. A motion for passage was made by Ethan Miladinovic and seconded by Alan Hipps, 5 ayes.

Brad read 2014-55, 3rd reading- An emergency Ordinance amending section 1440.29 and 1440.30 of the building and housing code relating to emergency work performed by the Village. A motion for passage was made by Alan Hipps and seconded Ethan Miladinovic, passed with 5 ayes.

Brad read 2014-59, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading- An emergency Ordinance amending chapter 1070 of the Public Services code relating to snow removal for senior citizens. Alan stated that the deadline is approaching soon on November 1<sup>st</sup>, so they need to act soon. Ethan said it isn't critical so he felt we should put on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading. Council decided to put this Ordinance on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Mayor Nehez asked Lisa Rodriguez how many senior citizens have signed up for snow plowing so far, and she said around 70 residents so far, and last year we had 124 senior driveways for the Service Dept. to plow.

**OLD BUSINESS;** none.


**NEW BUSINESS;** Mayor Nehez gave condolences to Beatrice Greenlee and her family on her nephew George Queen passing.

Mayor Nehez said that our thoughts and prayers go out to Council President Beatrice Greenlee and her family in the rough times right now.

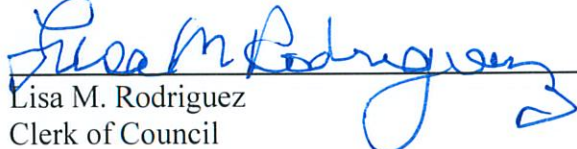
**ANNOUNCEMENTS; ADJOURNMENT -**

A motion for adjournment at 8:26 p.m. was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Nick Magistrelli, passed with 5 ayes.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Beatrice Greenlee  
President of Council

Attest:

  
Lisa M. Rodriguez  
Clerk of Council